

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

SUBJECT Strength of the Albanian Security Services

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1. [redacted] the political leadership of the Communist Party of Albania appears to be facing many difficulties and no longer has confidence in the Albanian Army, hence the reason for the organization of the "Special Brigades" ("Brigate Speciale"), which are composed of party members who are obliged to join them. In Tirana there reportedly was such a battalion (200 men) which [redacted] had developed into a brigade (600 men). Similar brigades were to be formed in Gjinokastor, Korce, Elbasan, and Shkoder. Those who serve in these brigades receive 4,000 lek per month pay.
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2. In addition, youths are allegedly being recruited for service in the "Sigurimit" (Special Security). With this recruiting, it is likely that the present strength of the "Sigurimit" will be about doubled. It is planned that an equal number of gendarmerie and "Sigurimit" forces will be assigned to the headquarters of each station and sub-command.
3. These changes in the police forces of the country were to be completed by the end of October 1949 [redacted]
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